

## Melonie Anderson

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**From:** Birdandcat@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, May 6, 2013 10:15 PM  
**To:** Melonie Anderson  
**Subject:** Environmentally Critical Areas update comments

5/6/2013

To: Sammamish City Council

Attached are my comments related to the Environmentally Critical Areas update:

Regarding Pilot projects, it would seem to me all the variances that have been granted could be studied as pilot programs and evaluated to see how effective mitigation has been with them. An example is the top of NE 213th where the hillside was denuded, houses were built and slides were occurring during and right after construction. Why risk building in a new area when there have already been problem areas which could be studied?

I am particularly concerned about the amendments not supported by Best Available Science. Paragraph (2) exempts certain small wetlands from mitigation sequencing. However, the scientific literature does not support exempting wetlands below a certain size because it isn't possible to conclude from size alone what functions a particular wetland may be providing.

Another concern is that the draft ordinance allows buffering averaging to 50% of the standard buffer width. I am concerned that this will not adequately protect wetland functioning. I agree with the Department of Ecology recommendation to limit it to 25% and adding the requirement that no feasible alternatives to the site design could be accomplished without buffer averaging.

As the Best Available Science report recommended that the city amend the minimum width of wildlife corridors to increase wildlife protection in those areas not already constrained by existing development to 300', I feel uncomfortable limiting the corridors to high value wetlands only given how much habitat wildlife has already lost in the area.

Thank you for considering my comments as part of your decision making process.

Sincerely,

Jan Bird

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EXHIBIT NO. CC47